

State Pledges \$100G More For City Preservation

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WOODBURY Another year of funding for the city's Neighborhood Preservation Program has been promised by the state.

It just needs the approval of the city council to get started.

A public hearing is scheduled for next week to discuss plans for the preservation program, which uses a \$100,000 state Department of Community Affairs grant that does everything from provide assistance to homeowners looking to spruce up their property, to sponsoring activities for the youth of the area.

"The main purpose is to stabilize the housing stock in the neighborhood and provide seed money for programs and activities that the residents feel will strengthen their community," said Virginia Horn, program coordinator.

In each year of the project, the city has received \$100,000 to continue these programs.

An additional program this year is planned to teach residents more about the history of the African American community in Woodbury.

City leaders spoke highly of the state program.

"It's a viable program that provides grant money to people to fix up their properties," said Council President Barry Sloane. "What's wrong with being able to get a fresh coat of paint on your home?"

Started nearly a decade ago in Woodbury, the Neighborhood Preservation Program focuses on the city's south side, which runs from Hopkins Street to the railroad tracks and west to South Jackson Street.

Funding is provided through quarterly reimbursements from the state.

The preservation program will present its plan for the upcoming year at the city council meeting scheduled for June 25. The meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at 33 Delaware St.